REMARKS

Claims 21-40 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments and new claims. Claims 21, 30, and 34 have been amended to better describe the particle analyzing system and related methodologies. Favorable examination in light of the amendments and the comments that follow is respectfully requested.

The Restriction Requirement

During a conversation between Examiner and Applicants' representative Gregory Turocy on or about February 28, 2007, claims were subjected to the following restriction requirement:

Group I (claims 21-33), and

Group II (claims 34-40).

Affirmation of the provisional election to prosecute Group I (claims 21-33) is hereby made. Applicants note that Rejoinder of the unelected method claims per MPEP § 821.04 will be sought.

The Amendments

Claims 21, 30, and 34 have been amended to further disclaim the cited art. In other words, the independent claims disclaim imaging systems which do NOT have a first lens positioned toward the object plane and a second lens positioned toward the sensor, the first lens sized to have a focal length smaller than the second lens to provide an apparent reduction of the one or more pixels within the object field plane.

The Obviousness Rejection

Claims 21-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Harris et al in view of Blumenfeld et al. Harris et al relates to identifying pharmaceutical agents using line-scan confocal imaging. A CCD camera is employed to capture images. In column 16, Harris et al teaches that realizing the resolution limit of the objective lens requires projecting 2.5 pixels onto a diffraction limited spot in the object plane. Blumenfeld et al

relates to mapping DNA chips to detector arrays where the light emitted by each member of a DNA array can be directly mapped to a limited number of detector pixels in the sensor array (see Col. 5, line 51).

Neither Harris et al nor Blumenfeld et al teaches or suggests a system with an image transfer medium having a diffraction limited spot size in an object plane, the object plane positioned within the area for accommodating particles, the image transfer medium operative to unit map a projected receptor size in the object plane to about the diffraction limited spot size in the object plane, the image transfer medium comprising a first lens positioned toward the object plane and a second lens positioned toward the imaging sensor, the first lens sized to have a focal length smaller than the second lens to provide an apparent reduction of the receptors within the object plane.

Since Harris et al and Blumenfeld et al do not teach or suugest all of the features of claims 21, 30, and 34, Harris et al and Blumenfeld et al cannot render claims 21-33 obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-33 is therefore respectfully requested.

Petition for Extension of Time

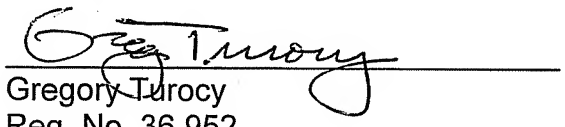
A request for a three month extension of time is hereby made (small entity status has been established). Payment is being made through the EFS electronic filing system.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP



Gregory Turocy
Reg. No. 36,952

24th Floor, National City Center
1900 East 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 696-8730
Fax (216) 696-8731